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Another lawsuit for Wainfleet

ALLAN BENNER
QMI Agency Niagara

The township is facing another lawsuit in its ongoing opposition of wind turbine projects planned for the community.

This time, Wainfleet Wind Energy Inc. is hoping to nullify the township's Dec. 10 decision to pay the \$40,000 legal bill for Skyline Burnaby, the local business leading the fight against a nearby wind turbine project.

Wainfleet Wind Energy, represented by Toronto-based legal firm Aird and Berlis LLP, launched the lawsuit Dec. 31.

Besides being one of the developers working to build the wind turbine project, wind

turbine developer Tom Rankin said he's also a Wainfleet property owner who is concerned about how his tax payments are being used.

"We just think it's wrong to start subsidizing a small sector of the economy," he said.

"I'd like to think I'm representing taxpayers that are pretty upset about that whole shenanigan of giving someone \$40,000 to fight an appeal. That's my take on it. I'm a taxpayer out there myself. I own property there, and some of our employees own property there and I've talked to a number of other people and they're pretty upset."

See RANKIN on Page 2



BOB THOMSEN/
QMI Agency
NIAGARA

The Township of Wainfleet is being sued over its \$2m wind turbine setback. A large group of anti-wind protesters were at the Provincial courthouse in St. Catharines Tuesday morning, Dec 18 2012.



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LOCAL NEWS

RANKIN

Township being sued again by Rankin Construction

From Page 1

"You don't just start giving out grants to people in the community like that. That's nonsense," Rankin said. "Not a lot of thought went into it. I can tell you that much."

Rankin said the company's lawyers are busy dealing with other matters, but the lawsuit will be before the courts "sooner rather than later."

A hearing is scheduled for March 6 at 10 a.m. in a St. Catharines courtroom.

The lawsuit will also force the township to recoup any funds paid to Skydive Burnaby, and to cover all court costs.

In 2012, Wainfleet Wind Energy successfully sued to strike down a township bylaw calling for a two-kilometre setback from wind turbines, rather than the 500 metre setback required as part of the Green Energy Act.

Mayor April Jeffs said the township will discuss the issue

during an in-camera meeting prior to Tuesday's council meeting.

"It's disheartening that we're back in the same boat again," she said. "I think we're trying to uphold what we were elected to do, to protect our citizens and residents. We're trying to help them defend their business."

Although Skydive Burnaby and its owner, Tara Pitt, were identified within the township's resolution to pro-

vide the \$40,000, Jeffs said the financial support is for a "group of citizens along with Skydive Burnaby who are part of this Environmental Review Tribunal."

"It's not just them," she said, referring to the business. "There seems to be some confusion about that."

Alderman Betty Kone said she's expecting to see more legal battles before the issue is resolved.

She said at least one area

resident has attempted to launch a lawsuit against the developer, seeking compensation for the adverse impact the wind turbines could have on property values.

"There is potential (for a civil lawsuit) down along the lakeshore in particular where those two turbines are potentially going to be sited," she said, referring to the turbines planned for Station Rd.

Kone said she conservatively estimates 800 prop-

erties on the lakeshore will be affected by the turbines.

If the value of those properties is reassessed and reduced by MPAC, "the township is going to suffer a \$500,000-a-year deficit in our tax base from the lakeshore for 20 years," she said.

"That's \$500,000 a year for 20 years."

alan.benner@summedia.ca

ELECTION

Jeffs hopes for another four years

ALLAN BENNER
QMI Agency Niagara

Despite some "bumps along the road" recently, Mayor April Jeffs is ready for another four years.

She filed her nomination papers at township hall, Friday, in the hope of being re-elected as Wainfleet's mayor in the Oct. 27 municipal election — despite recent criticism over a council decision to spend \$40,000 to help pay

the legal bill for a local business and residents opposing nearby wind turbine development.

"This has been a tough one, but I knew I wouldn't get through a whole term without having some sort of humps in the road," she said.

For the most part, she said she's really enjoyed her time in office.

While the issues regarding the wind turbines has "definitely been weighing on me

and consuming my thoughts about what's going to be the end result and where we're going to end up with this," she said the work her council has accomplished has been rewarding.

"I have enjoyed the last three years and met so many people in the community and beyond," she said.

Jeffs discussed a few highlights, such as efforts to resolve problems with contaminated well water near the township's

lakeshore, her work with the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority board, and the Niagara Region.

"I've formed relationships with staff both at the region and conservation authority, and I just really enjoyed working with all the different community groups too," she said. "I definitely want to try it again, if the residents will have me. We'll see."

alan.benner@summedia.ca



I've formed relationships with staff both at the region and conservation authority, and I just really enjoyed working with all the different community groups too"

Wainfleet Mayor April Jeffs



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LOCAL NEWS

■ POLICE

Watchdog probes arrest

ALLAN BENNER

QMI Agency Niagara

The Special Investigations Unit was called in after a Wainfleet man was taken to hospital after being arrested by Niagara Regional Police.

SIU communications co-ordinator Monica Hudon said a team of four investiga-

tors and a forensic examiner are looking into an incident involving Bryan Clark, 45, who was arrested at about 4 a.m. Dec. 27 following a police chase and 45-minute search by the NRP's canine unit in a wooded area in east Port Colborne.

Clark was subsequently charged with possession

of break-and-enter instruments, possession of stolen property over \$5,000, and assault with intent to resist arrest.

Although Clark was examined at the Welland hospital following his arrest, Hudon said he went into "medical distress" while in custody at the Niagara Detention Cen-

tre and was taken to the St. Catharines hospital.

"He was diagnosed with a head injury and was transferred to Hamilton General Hospital," she said.

Hudon said she couldn't comment on the extent of his injuries or the circumstances that led to those injuries.

"I wouldn't be able to comment on the actual interaction at this point, that's what our investigation is about," she said.

"The SIU is mandated to investigate any incident involving police where there has been serious injury, death or an allegation of sexual assault.

In this case, there was an interaction between police and the man, and the SIU is trying to determine what happened during that interaction, and if there are grounds to lay criminal charges, to do so."

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■ POLICE: Cathy Pietz not seen since Dec. 6

Training tied to missing woman search

GREG FURMINGER

QMI Agency Niagara

Investigation into the disappearance of a 56-year-old Welland woman missing since

early December shifted to the icy water of the Welland Canal Jan. 9.

Niagara Regional Police combined its winter under-water search and recovery

and marine units training with a search for Cathy Pietz, not seen since Dec. 6.

But unlike a training exercise conducted at the Lincoln St. docks on the Welland Rec-

reational Canal in Welland just prior to Christmas, Thursday's site was cordoned off with yellow police tape.

At the scene Thursday, Const. Richard Gadreau

wouldn't say what led police to the southernmost point of West St. except that "we're always committed to ensure we follow up on everything"

Family has been kept apprised of developments in the police investigation as they arise and were notified of Thursday's dive, NRP Const. Derek Watson said.

Pietz was last seen at her family home in Welland at about 10:30 p.m. on Dec. 6 and prior to her disappearance she had been speaking to a friend in Hamilton.

Police are not treating the disappearance as suspicious.

Pietz is described as 5-foot-5, 240 pounds with long, straight blond hair, blue eyes and a three-inch vertical scar below the outside cor-

ner of her right eye. She was last seen wearing black slacks with a white stripe and a blue sweater.

She was believed to be driving a red four-door 2001 Pontiac GT1 with Ontario licence plate AWYV176.

Sgt. Bill Willey, who heads the marine unit, said a hole was cut in the canal ice Wednesday evening on the assumption divers would be entering the water just past 9:30 a.m. Thursday.

However, an icebreaker originally scheduled to bring a ship into port for wintering Wednesday night was delayed and the dive exercise as a result, too, was delayed by safety concerns with shifting ice.

Ice at the scene was about 10 centimetres thick Thursday.

Police are asking anyone with information about the disappearance of Pietz to call 905-735-7811, ext. 3306.

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GREG FURMINGER/QMI AGENCY NIAGARA

Niagara Regional Police divers prepare for a training exercise in the Welland Canal in Port Colborne Thursday that was tied in with the disappearance of Welland woman Cathy Pietz, last seen Dec. 6.



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■ ourview

Religious accommodation run amok

So we're back again talking about "reasonable accommodation" in the news media. And shock of shocks, we're even talking about Quebec and its government's rather fascist-style assault on religion in the public square.

In this case, newspapers and TV news programs have been alight the past week with chatter about a York University student who asked to be excluded on religious grounds from classwork that required meeting in a group with female students. Evidently, his chosen deity gets all squarely if men and women sit at the same table.

The professor wisely told us to any yet-unnamed student this was not possible, refusing to be party to any kind of sexism. This gave the student two real-world choices — either do the classwork or get a failing grade.

Instead, said student protested and the weak-kneed university bureaucrats countermanded the professor's decision. The news media went politely bananas. There is, admittedly, a difficult line to walk here.

We properly regard freedom of religion and expression as sacrosanct. Without them, democracy itself ceases to be. But what cannot be forgotten is these critical rights are not without limitations. My right to free speech, by way of a for instance, doesn't protect me if I shout "fire" in a crowded theatre.

Similarly, there are limits to freedom of religion. It's why we require women who cover their faces for religious reasons to remove their veils when questioned by a police officer or when voting.

On the other hand, we do make reasonable accommodation in certain cases — allowing minor modification to the RCMP uniform for Sikhs, for example. It does no harm, does not undermine democratic values and in fact reflects the essential multicultural nature of Canadian society.

But broadly speaking, there are aspects of some religions, particularly of the fundamentalist variety, that are simply incompatible with the basic principles of a free society. One of those principles is the equality of the sexes.

While it might be common in the Middle East to effectively segregate men from women, force women to wear particular clothing and deny them the same rights as men, we don't really go in for that sort of thing here.

The York student, reportedly a follower of some fundamentalist sect of Islam or Judaism — religions which, in their more extreme permutations, are replete with misogynistic ideas — is effectively saying "Because I believe my particular god doesn't want me to get girl cooties, I should receive special treatment."

Well son, it doesn't work that way. Religious accommodation has its limits. In his home or religious temple, they may freely ensure men and women don't sit at the same table. But at a publicly funded institution like a Canadian university? That isn't going to fly.

It is to the university's lasting shame that it bowed — albeit with the best of intentions, I presume — to this student's ridiculous request.

They don't seem to understand that by granting it, they have opened the door to any misogynist to ask to study only with men because his god tells him so.

They don't seem to understand that by granting this student's request, they have institutionalized a kind of tepid sexism.

And what happens when a student says she cannot sit at a black student, or a student of a different religion? Are we to bow to that request too?

Imagine if this was tried in the Canadian workplace. I would dearly love to see this guy try tell my boss, who happens to be a woman, that he should not have to work with women because his holy book says so. Such an attitude would make a person basically unemployable. And rightly so.

We defend religious rights in this country. We do vigorously, but in doing so, we do not give up principles basic to a democracy just to soothe the Bronze Age sensibilities of some believers.

Some beliefs are just best left to the dust bin of history.

GORD ABRAHAM
Port Colborne Baptist Church

Every few weeks I receive in my mail box a page, from some Members of Parliament or a Member of the Ontario Legislature, printed on both sides with information about their party and their involvement on our behalf.

There has been a lot, a lot of negativity in our political world that some have called "politics of division." Often there is opposition to what others are doing with little acknowledgment that we are all in this together and few attempts to work together for the common good. Can anything be done together for the good of all? Can all parties work together to set out the roadmap of where we need to be going?

Let me bring you some good news. God is for us and has laid out where we are, what He has planned and where we are going and how we can work in co-operation with Him. As negative as things can be, God is for us!

What impresses me about God is that He is for us; has created us and set into motion, as Creator, a plan to redeem us and restore the creation into His loving and gracious rule. This plan is not a smart campaign

against his alienated creatures, but rather, a clean up campaign, through the death of His Son, the Lord (King) Jesus Christ.

It states in the Gospel of John 3:16, "God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

His plan includes the final restoration of both heaven and earth. This is why Jesus taught us to pray, "Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:9-10).

The images of all God has in store for us are given in the last book of the Bible, Revelation 21:1-2. Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband."

Here we see images of new heavens and a new earth, with the old being gone. There is also the image of a city coming down to the new earth. God's dimension (heaven) will again be reunited with the material world He created minus all the affects of the sin of the past

(death, pain, suffering, division etc). God will make all things right and make all things new.

God in Christ Jesus will even be reunited in living with His people on this newly created earth, just as He originally planned at the beginning of Creation (Gen 1-2). I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them." (Rev 21:3)

Because God the Father put the sins of all people on His Son, Jesus, and then raised Jesus from the dead, all this is for us. It is the start of all things new. Those who are His will be brought back into his family and be a part of his gracious loving rule in this new Creation — this is how much God is for us.

What are we to do? We are told very clearly, "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved. 11 As the Scriptures tell us, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced." (Romans 10:3-10).

God is for us!

■ readers' views

**PORT COLBORNE 2013
COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER**

We would like to take this time to thank all of the people that donated their time and volunteered on Monday and Christmas Day.

It was another great and successful day. We would like to send a big thank you to those who donated

towards the dinner: J. Oskam Steel Fabricators Ltd., Minor Fisheries Ltd., Shoppers Drug Mart, Port Colborne No Frills, Boggio Pharmacy, RBC, ReMax, Home Hardware, Port Taxi, Tim Hortons, Pro Style Flooring, Bridgeview Motors, The Young Automotive Professionals, State Farm Insurance, Canadian Tire, Dr. Sedden, Port Colborne Hospital Foundation, Country Kettle, Port

Colborne High School and all who made cash donations.

We would like to thank the Port Colborne High School for the use of the cafeteria.

God Bless you all from Jack, Larry and Mike.

JACK O'NEIL,
PORT COLBORNE

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LOCAL NEWS

■ PHILANTHROPY:

Coldest night for homelessness

ALLAN BENNER
QMI Agency Niagara

The Coldest Night of the Year will be on Feb. 22, regardless of weather forecasts.

That's when Hope Centre will participate in its second annual fund raising walk through the streets of the city to raise funds to combat homelessness.

Hope Centre's program administrator Brenda Lanigan said the issues of poverty and homelessness are becoming increasingly prevalent in the city.

"Because of all the plant closures there is more of a realization that 'I could become homeless very quickly,'" she said. "I think there's a lot more understanding. It doesn't take much to put a family right down."

And organizers of Hope Centre's second annual Coldest Night of the Year hope the heightened awareness will mean more participation in the event.

"Welland is a great community that comes out," she said. "It's a great community to be in."

Julianne Sheppit, who has already signed up to participate, said the event

also allows people to contribute even if they can't participate.

"It's an opportunity for people who don't necessarily have the time to volunteer to give back, because they can sponsor us and know that it's going to a place," she said.

Hope Centre's community development coordinator Kayla Saj said they're hoping as many as 150 people participate this year, with a fund raising goal of \$30,000.

Kurtis McCartney has already started working towards that goal, and he plans to make a personal sacrifice to help reach it.

He hasn't had his hair cut since 2010, but said he plans to get it chopped short if he reaches his personal fundraising goal of \$5,000.

With more than a month to go, he's already brought in \$300.

People interested in participating can register www.coldestnightoftheyear.org, by calling 905-788-0744 ext. 240 or by sending e-mail to kayla.saj@gmail.com.

allan.benner@summedia.ca



ALLAN BENNER/STAFF PHOTO

With a month to go before the Coldest Night of the Year fundraising event arrives Feb. 22, Hope Centre is working to get more people involved in the initiative to raise funds to combat homelessness. From left are Hope Centre's program administrator Brenda Lanigan, volunteers Hayley Farbyciuk and Julianne Sheppit, Hope Centre's community development coordinator Kayla Saj, and volunteer Kurtis McCartney.

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LOCAL NEWS

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Open houses at high schools

WELLAND — Eighth-graders are being given a glimpse at high school life through open houses designed at fostering familiarity with their educational future and opportunities that lay ahead. Monday night open houses were held at E.L. Crossley in Pelham and at Lakeshore Catholic in Port Colborne starting.

Port Colborne High's open house was last Thursday. French high schools, which cover a broader grade range, are also having open houses. Jean Vanier's is Thursday starting at 6:30 p.m. Confederation's starts 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 23.

For those who have a fear of social networking there is hope. On Jan. 17, from 7:30 to 9 a.m. there will be a new member breakfast called Networking at its Best.

Some excel at networking, while others cringe at the thought, the breakfast will share one simple step to take the fear out of networking. Facilitator Sandra Summerhayes has 20 years combined experience in leadership development, customer service, team building, coaching and career development. The breakfast is \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members and will be at the Jericho House at 10945 Rathfon Rd., in Wainfleet. For more information visit www.sandrasummerhayes.com.

The Chamber of Commerce will hold its President's Award Reception, April 2, at The Italian Canadian Cultural Centre at 233 Bell St. in Port Colborne from 5 to 9 p.m. Presentations will be made for business of the year, citizen of the year, junior youth citizen of the year, women in business, youth citizen award and the new business award.

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LOCAL NEWS



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■ PUBLIC SAFETY: 45-year-old suffers cardiac arrest

Arena defibrillator, bystanders save man's life

ALLEN BENNER
CMA Agency Niagara

"It's a crazy thing knowing your actions are going to determine what's going to happen to someone's life."

Joedy Groulx has had considerable CPR and defibrillator training in the five years he's worked for the city at Welland Arena, preparing him for such an emergency. But the 42-year-old said actually using that training to save someone's life was an intense experience.

"I very well could have had a heart attack myself," he said. "It seemed like every second was an hour. It was pretty intense."

Niagara paramedics credit Groulx and Chris McEachern with helping save the life of a 45-year-old man who suffered a heart attack at about 9:40 p.m., Wednesday.

Groulx said he used to play for the OVs old-timers hockey team last year, and when he was there playing during his shift at the arena he stopped by to say high to his former teammates. He said he watched the team play for about five seconds, when McEachern ran out of the dressing room yelling and waving his arms for help.

McEachern grabbed the nearby defibrillator and asked Groulx if he knew how to use it. They raced back to the dressing room to assist a stricken hockey player.

Groulx said McEachern's brother Stew had already called 911 when the teammate was feeling sick, but at the time, team members thought they could make it to the hospital across the road on their own rather than call in an ambulance.

"As soon as they got him to the door of the dressing room, he collapsed and

went into cardiac arrest," Groulx said. That's when Groulx saw McEachern calling for help.

Groulx said the victim was "convulsing and he wasn't breathing."

"I started getting the defibrillator out of its case, while Chris was doing compressions."

Groulx turned on the defibrillator and followed the instructions on its display. The machine automatically assessed the victim's condition, and instructed Groulx to clear the area and deliver a shock to the man's chest. "I hit the button and it jolted him," he said.

They resumed CPR, including chest compressions and mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

"His body kind of relaxed from a really tensed-up state... and he started to breathe on his own," Groulx said.

Paramedics arrived soon after and transported their patient to hospital. Groulx said he didn't relax until he learned the heart attack victim was recovering.

"I'm feeling a little better now," he said. "I wasn't feeling well until I knew he was going to be OK."

"Due to the fast actions of the bystanders who knew CPR and a public access defibrillator being available, the patient was successfully resuscitated," said Niagara Emergency Medical Services Chief Kevin Smith in a media release. "Niagara Emergency Medical Services would like to commend the actions of all involved as this is a prime example of how early CPR and public access defibrillation saves lives."

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This popular and nice sedan and former company owned vehicle offers terrific fuel mileage, a sunroof, remote start, alloy wheels, power drivers seat, power windows and locks, Air conditioning and much more!

USED VEHICLES
2010 Dodge Nitro SXT-4X4

88,655 kms • \$16,497-30,954 • \$17,987
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USED VEHICLES
USED VEHICLES
2010 Jeep Liberty North

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GRAND OPENING

AT WELLAND'S NEW ROSE CITY CHRYSLER-DODGE-JEEP-RAM-FIAT DEALERSHIP

Drive Away in a New Vehicle

Rose City Chrysler's bright, glamorous new showroom features floor-to-ceiling windows – the perfect place to showcase this year's exciting new vehicles! Come to the Niagara Street dealership's Grand Opening Open House on Saturday, Jan. 18 and see the sleek and sporty 2014 Dodge Dart, which shares its Italian heritage with the Alfa Romeo Giulietta. Check out Chrysler's award-winning line of Ram pickup trucks and Dodge Caravan minivans, or the exciting new 2014 Jeep Cherokee, which is setting the mid-sized SUV market on fire! In addition to having both the Ram and the Grand Caravan among the top 10 nameplates sold in Canada, "The Journey also remained the number one selling crossover in 2013," says Nick Sebastian, Dealer Principal at Rose City Chrysler. "This year, Chrysler becomes the only manufacturer of a light duty truck with a diesel engine and plans to enter the mid-size car market with an all-new entry to replace the Chrysler 200. It's all European technology and quality, which we can never offer before, and we now have all that PLUS the new Fiat Studio" at the new Niagara Street location in Welland.

The welcome Fiat addition makes Rose City Chrysler one of only about 25 select Chrysler dealers in Ontario to handle the Fiat brand. Car enthusiasts already know that as of January 20, 2014 Fiat will officially assume 100 per cent control of the Chrysler, Corporation, Sebastian says. "It's a match made in heaven" he adds. "We gave Fiat larger cars and trucks and they gave us small car technology, high-powered and fuel-efficient gas motors, along with 9-speed transmissions and a light duty truck and SUV diesel engine."

Chrysler has done exceptionally well in Canada with 48 consecutive months of year-over-year growth in sales, and now has a strong hold on the "Number 2" spot in Canada, just behind Ford. In addition, Chrysler is the only one of the "Big 3" that grew in market share last year. "As for us, it's been solid and steady growth for seven consecutive years here at Rose City."

Tour, free barbecue and air bag demonstration

On Sat. Jan. 18, everyone is invited to enjoy a free barbecue lunch and take a tour of the new showroom and improved service area, which is warm and easier to access. Make yourself at home and relax in Rose City's "Chrysler Lounge," a comfortable new waiting room equipped with a big-screen TV, where hot coffee is always readily available.

"Take advantage of our special sales event during the grand opening," says Nick, "or just come to say hello and fill out a ballot to win a brand new iPad." In response to customers' concerns about the deployment of air bags, Chrysler Service staff will perform actual air bag deployment demonstrations to show what really happens when air bags ignite.

Partners Share Passion for the Road

An avid car and motorcycle enthusiast, Nick's passion for freedom on the road is contagious; a love he shares with his customers.

"I've been a car guy since I was old enough to talk," he explains. "I knew every car and motorcycle on the road. I built motors; I read magazines. As I got older, my buddy and I used to work on our cars and we turned that hobby into a business. I started buying and selling cars that needed work and eventually I ended up in the car business."

Nick's automotive career began 31 years ago at a small AMC Jeep Ramnault dealership in Hamilton, where he worked his way up to manager. On a corporate reward trip, Nick met the AMC dealer from St. Catharines.

"He offered me a job at his store back in the mid 80's there and I've been in the Niagara area ever since," Sebastian partnered with the Johnston Auto Group from his hometown in Hamilton. Bill Johnston is a fourth-generation Chrysler dealer whose great-grandfather opened their first store more than 80 years ago.

In May of 2006, the two partners took over the Chrysler dealership formerly located on Prince Charles Drive and retained most of the same sales and service staff. "We've added a number of employees over the last seven years, says Nick, but notes that the move has provided an extra special boost in morale for the original employees.

"They now have the beautiful dealership home and work environment they deserve for their efforts and loyalty!" When the new Niagara Street location became available at the end of 2011, plans went into place, Nick recalls, "and we had the official groundbreaking in September, 2012. By February of 2013, construction of the building itself was underway and finally on October 21, 2013 we officially opened for business.

"Right from the get-go, we saw an increase in traffic and in our showroom and service departments. We're already 20 per cent higher than last year at the same time," Nick says, a statistic which bodes well for the typical spring sales season ahead, "and we are really optimistic about 2014."

Approaching its 8th anniversary as a dealership in Welland, with a staff complement of 29, Nick foresees a very bright future for both employees and customers at Rose City Chrysler.

"Hopefully, we will be able to expand our staff even more," he projects. "Our first priority is to take care of our customers and to place special focus on our local market. We want to be the go-to place for Chrysler products in the region."

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2011 Dodge Journey Crew



59,974 kms • SINKP-2095A • \$17,988
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2012 Hyundai Elantra GLS



45,399 kms • SINKP-2095A • \$14,988
New arrival, the popular Barrio has Bluetooth, automatic transmission, air conditioning, power windows and locks, keyless entry, Cruise, and great look!

2012 Honda Civic LX



58,414 kms • SINKP-2095A • \$13,988
This is the redesigned, popular Honda Civic with more room than its former models, stability control, low standard and red color, brilliant fuel economy. This one owner Civic has style, a sharp road attitude and a comfortable interior with air conditioning, window entry and power group at an affordable sale price!

2013 Dodge Ram 2500 SLT-4X4



44,886 kms • SINKP-3380 • \$31,988
This 2012 Ram SLT has just the right features for work and play with air conditioning, power rear sliding window, automatic headlights, cruise, dual 4 wheel drive, Sirius radio, 5.3i Hemi 6 speed automatic transmission and seating for 6.

2013 Dodge Dart SXT



17,243 kms • SINKP-3367 • \$17,988
Sharp, red hot and ready to go, Dodge Dart SXT, automatic with premium wheels and Sirius radio, how low and amazing fuel economy.



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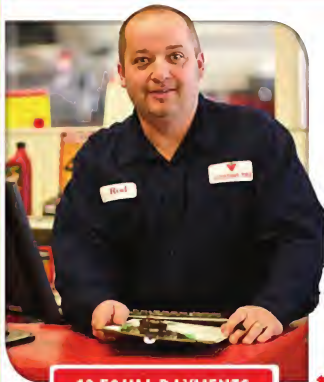
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THIS WEEK'S TIP

TIRE PRESSURE

The most frequent cause of tire failure is under-inflation. Even extreme under-inflation can be difficult to detect by mere visual inspection. Don't depend on it, use a personal tire gauge. Under-inflated or overloaded tires generate high levels of destructive, internal heat, which could cause tires to blow out. Extreme under-inflation can even unseat the tire from the rim while your vehicle is in motion.

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■ WHITEOUT: Port Colborne Tim Hortons becomes OPP collision centre



GREG FURMINGER/QMI AGENCY NIAGARA

The Tim Hortons at Hwy. 3 and Elizabeth St. in Port Colborne serves as an OPP collision reporting centre after an 11-vehicle chain-reaction crash on Hwy. 3 near Lorraine Rd. in Port Colborne Tuesday afternoon.

'Twilight zone' site of 11-vehicle crash

GREG FURMINGER
QMI Agency Niagara

"It was like being in a freezer box — I couldn't see two feet, three feet in front of me."

Those are the words of Welland man Sam Lamacchia, who found himself in the lead car of an 11-vehicle chain-reaction crash on eastbound Hwy. 3 near Lorraine Rd. Jan. 7.

Driving through white-knuckle conditions for which whiteouts could be compared to white linen sheets blowing across the hoods of cars, Lamacchia feared a wreck was brewing.

He had no idea, though, that 10 vehicles would come crashing from behind him just before 2:10 p.m.

Tim Barrow had two words to describe the experience: "Twilight zone."

Speaking from inside the warmth of a Tim Hortons restaurant at Hwy. 3 and Elizabeth St., Lamacchia and others — some who were toward the scene, some who drove their vans and cars with busted bumpers and mangled quarterpanels — recalled their harrowing rides.

Tim Barrow had two words to describe the experience: "Twilight zone."

The Crystal Beach man had been in Virgil earlier in the day for a warehouse job interview then made a stop in St. Catharines before heading home on Hwy. 406.

It was calm until he was about to venture onto Hwy. 140.

"In some I got out by the tunnel, I had hazards on all the way."

As soon as the blinking lights of oncoming cars and transport trucks were not seen until they had elipsed from sight.

Following snow powder-coated body panels and plastered taillights,

"We were all sitting ducks," Barrow said.

Among those people who came to the aid of the stranded motorists and their passengers — no injuries were reported — was Jason Burt, riding shotgun in a tow truck that made its way from Niagara Falls.

"We took the back ways thinking it would be better," he said.

"No," he added, shaking his head.

Burt, too, assembled in the Port Colborne coffee shop, which had become a makeshift collision reporting centre under command of the OPP's Tim Leithead.

During a break from reviewing ownership and auto insurance papers, the constable explained travel was "very difficult" through blowing snow.

"I couldn't see the front of my cruiser driving down Hwy. 3," he said to a woman who had just burst into tears upon him telling her that her QEW route home to Fort Erie had been shut down by police.

Emergency crews were called to the scene of a multi-vehicle crash in the Toronto-bound lanes of the QEW at Netherby Rd. at 2:35 p.m.

Five vehicles were involved in the crash, one of which was a fuel tanker transport truck that jack-knifed into a ditch. Police said there were no injuries.

Numerous other collisions were reported throughout south Niagara as blowing snow conditions persisted.

Leithead's advice to motorists when the weather looks bad: "Drive slowly or stay home."

— with files from QMI Agency Niagara's Allison Langley

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REPORT DATEBOOK

JANUARY 17
FOREST OF READING

Book Clubs launch at Wainfleet Township Public Library 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Receive your "log" book and find out about

all the nominated Canadian books. Have a snack and do an activity. Call 905-899-1277 to pre-register. The Blue Spruce Award is for kindergarten to Grade 2 students. The Silver Birch Awards for grades 3 to 6. Can't make it to the launch?

"Log" books can be picked up at the front desk starting Jan. 20. Read at your own pace and vote in April for which book should win with kids from all across Ontario.

JANUARY 22
WII BOWLING FOR SENIORS

at Port Colborne Library. Drop by the library for fun, low-impact exercise, and a little friendly competition! Time 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Free.

JANUARY 23
LEGO

at Wainfleet Township Public

Library 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Children of all ages can drop-in during this time to build a Lego or upla creation. Please do not bring your own Lego.

JANUARY 27
FAMILY LITERACY DAY

story time and craft at Wainfleet Township Public Library from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Parents and their children are welcome to join us for a

story and craft in recognition of Family Literacy Day. Call 905-899-1277 to pre-register by Jan. 24.

ADULT BOOK CLUB

at Wainfleet Township Public Library at 6:30 p.m. This month's selection is The Street of a Thousand Blossoms, by Gail Tsukiyama. To obtain a copy of the book, please register as a book club member.

Continued on Page 18



AARON BOGGIO
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MENOPAUSE

Symptoms of menopause can be very uncomfortable. The three most common complaints are hot flashes, insomnia, and vaginal dryness. After the Women's Health Initiative trial many patients discontinued their hormone therapy due to concerns about cardiovascular problems and breast cancer with PREMARIN and PREMPUS. Unfortunately this left many women struggling with their symptoms.

Most recent guidelines have emphasized that short-term use of hormone therapy during early menopause may not be that risky. The risk of heart disease is small if hormones are taken within the first 10 years of menopause. Also, evidence indicates that the risk of breast cancer probably doesn't increase when combination hormone therapy is used for only 2 to 3 years. (Of course you should consult your doctor for their opinion on this information).

There are other options if patients do not want to go the traditional route of hormone replacement. The best way to deal with symptoms is to treat them individually.

For patients with hot flashes try non drug options first. Patients should exercise, manage their weight, stop smoking and avoid hot drinks, caffeine and alcohol. There are some herbal products on the market that can be tried, but in general do not have much evidence for effectiveness. Black cohosh is being used by many women but it does not seem any better than placebo for hot flashes. In addition there have been some reports of liver toxicity with its use. Soy may provide a small benefit. A common dose is 60 grams/day of soy protein from food, or up to 120 mg/day of soy isoflavones from supplements. Evening primrose, dong quai, wild yam, and red clover, chasteberry and ginseng have not been shown to work for hot flashes. There are some prescription drugs that can be tried as well. These include venlafaxine, gabapentin, and clonidine. You can ask your doctor if one of these options are right for you.

Vaginal dryness can be treated by an over the counter product called REPLEN. If this proves ineffective a local estrogen therapy such as VAGIFEM can be tried.

Insomnia can be treated with a low dose non addictive prescription medication such as ZOPICLONE. An over the counter medication like GRAVIL or BENADRYL can also be used on an occasional basis.

Osteoporosis is a real concern for menopausal women not on hormone therapy. Women of this age should make sure they are getting 1500 mg of calcium and 1000 IU of vitamin D daily.

Bi-identical Hormone Replacement is another option for symptom treatment. Hormones used in this treatment are identical to those in the human body. Bio-identical Hormone therapy is very individualized treatment. Patients have their hormones analyzed through a saliva test and then their prescriptions are tailor made to meet their needs. Doses and hormones used are compounded in the pharmacy for each individual depending on their deficiencies and physician's prescription. For further information on this type of treatment please visit our website WWW.BOGGIOS.COM.

Menopause can be an extremely difficult time for many women. Luckily there are some good treatment options for the most bothersome symptoms. The best approach to dealing with them is to consult your doctor and pharmacist about the safest most effective treatment for you.

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FIRE

FIRE PREVENTION SMARTS

At least 80 percent of all fire deaths occur in home fires. Here are some smart Fire Prevention tips for protecting yourself and your family:

- ✓ Never leave candles burning unattended, and keep matches out of reach from children.
- ✓ Keep space heaters away from curtains and other flammable materials.
- ✓ Install smoke alarms on every floor of your home and outside each bedroom, and test batteries monthly.

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IMPORT DATEBOOK

From page 16

JANUARY 29

FILM BUDDS

discussion group at Port Colborne Public Library. Members watch films at home and then join the group for discussion. Time 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. All films to be discussed are available in DVD format to borrow from the Library. January's selections are Night of the Hunter and The Legend of 1900.

JANUARY 30

CLASSIC BOOK CLUB

at Wainfleet Township Public Library 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Join us for afternoon tea as we discuss the works of classic literature. This month's selection is Little Women, by Louisa May Alcott. To obtain a copy of the book, please register as a book club member.

ONGOING

KIDSSZONE

presented Mondays and Thursdays 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. by Boys and Girls Club of Niagara, for children aged six to 12, at Centre for Community Living, 100 McRae Ave., Welland. Registration fee \$5. Call 905-871-2592 for more information.

STITCH IT!

at Port Colborne Public Library, Monday's from 6 to 8 p.m. Do you sew, crochet, quilt, knit? Bring your work-in-progress for a couple of hours of stitching and conversation. \$1 per person, each week.

NIAGARA BONSAI SOCIETY

meets on the third Sunday of each month, 1:30 p.m. at St. Mark's Church, 40 Byron St. (across from Simcoe Park), Niagara-on-the-Lake. All are welcome. For further information contact niagarabonsai@gmail.ca.

DOCUMENTARY SERIES

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the First World War, Port Colborne Public Library will present a monthly documentary film during the entire year of 2014. The documentaries will be shown on the second Wednesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. At several sessions, speakers will be available to talk about the Great War. For more information, contact the library at 905-834-6512.

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

needed by Community Support Services of Niagara, within and outside the region. Volunteers are reimbursed mileage and hours are flexible (between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday to Friday). Call Laura Dumas at 905-788-3181 ext. 27 or e-mail ldumas@cssn.ca for more program details. You can also visit www.cssn.ca.

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